Autumn
Vol. 9 No. 1 1999

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School of Library & Information Management

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This semi-annual newsletter is sent to alumni and friends of SLIM. Please send change of address to SLIM, Box 4025, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 66801.

This issue was produced using QuarkXPress 4.0 and Adobe Photoshop 5.0 on a Dell Inspiron 7000. Digital images were taken on an Olympus D-500L camera or scanned on a Microtek ScanMaker 4.

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SLIM Participates in the American Library Association Accreditation Process

In late September of this year, an External Review Panel of the Committee on Accreditation for the American Library Association paid a three-day visit to SLIM. The visit was part of the regularly scheduled accreditation process, which happens every seven years for library schools. The last accreditation visit for SLIM took place in 1992. Dr. Danny Wallace, Director of the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University and Panel Chair, explained the purpose of the visit as a "fact expanding exercise" rather than a "fact finding mission." He said that during their visit the panel members hoped to expand on the Program Presentation previously submitted by SLIM to the Committee on Accreditation. He emphasized that the role of the panel was one of advocacy for the library school.

Dean Robert Grover and Dr. Roger Wyatt authored the required Program Presentation and submitted it to the Committee on Accreditation in May. An electronic version of the presentation is available on the SLIM web site at http://slim.emporia.edu/program/accredit/accredit.pdf. Dean Grover served on the committee that wrote the current Standards for Accreditation of Master's Degree Programs in Library and Information Studies in 1992. The Program Presentation lists the standards on page 81 and includes cross-references to the pages on which SLIM address each of the standards.

Dr. Robert Grover
Dean of SLIM

In the weeks leading up to the panel visit, Dean Grover wrote several messages to the student listserv, SLIMCAFE, describing the accreditation process. In one message he wrote, "In drafting these Standards the committee was intent upon providing a framework that encouraged innovation, instead of discouraging it; that is indicative of the appropriate elements of a quality program, not prescriptive; that encourages a continuous process of assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation; that enables a school to formulate a mission statement which addresses the unique needs of the school's constituencies; and that addresses quality regardless of the delivery methods used. In other words, the committee wanted to provide a flexible framework to encourage schools to adapt to the rapid changes in our highly technological society."

The Standards for Accreditation look at six basic areas: (1) Mission, goals, and objectives; (2) Curriculum, (3) Faculty, (4) Students, (5) Administration and financial support, and (6) Physical resources and facilities. The agenda for the accreditation visit revolved around these six areas. During the course of their visit, the panel members reviewed a large amount of documentation referring to curriculum, goals and objectives. They had several meetings with students and faculty, including students in the distance education program. They met with a number of university officials and administrators. They also became very familiar with the physical resources and facilities of SLIM.

The first draft of the panel's report to the Committee on Accreditation is due October 19, 1999. SLIM will receive a copy of the draft at that time. Dean Grover will meet with the Committee on Accreditation at ALA Midwinter 2000 to receive the final decision regarding accreditation for SLIM.

What is that thing in the middle of the page? Is it diagram for a football play, a blueprint for a great invention? The first person to properly identify the image appearing in the background of each page of the newsletter will receive a SLIM coffee mug. Send your answer to sliminfo@emporia.edu.

Alumni News

Jennifer Railsback, 1996, is the new Technical Resource Specialist at the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Comprehensive Center in Portland, Oregon.

Karla Vonachen, 1997, is the new Director of Education & Marketing for Peel's Salon Services in Hutchinson, KS.

Adam Wathen is a new Assistant Professor at Montana State Univerity Libraries.

Lance D. Wiscamb, Emporia in the Rockies IV, is the new Reference Librarian at Andersen Air Force Base Library in Guam.

Leslie Nord, 1997, became the Library Director at Brown Mackie College in Kansas City in September 1998. She also had an article published in the December 1998 issue of VOYA on Young Adult Focus Groups.

Sharon Dykshoorn, SLIM-Nebraska II, was recently promoted to Public Services Librarian at Western Iowa Tech Library in Sioux City, Iowa.

Barbara Bourrier-LaCroix, SLIM North Dakota, has a new baby daughter, Aimée Denise Lacroix Hanson, born July 20th, weighing in at 7 pounds 11 ounces, 20 inches in length.

Russell Johnson is a new cataloger at the St Louis Public Library. His main emphasis is on serials, microforms, and state, local and federal documents.

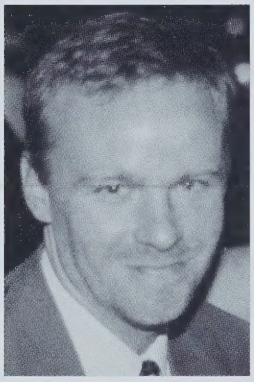
More Alumni Notes on page 4

"Information Architect" is a Possible Job-Title for MLS Graduates

Louis Rosenfeld, 1990 MLS graduate from the University of Michigan and co-author of the best-selling Internet book, ***Information Architecture for the World Wide Web***, describes the job of an information architect as:

1. to clarify the mission and vision of a web site, "balancing the needs of its sponsoring organization and the needs of its audiences"
2. to determine the site content and function
3. to specify how users will find information by "defining its organization, navigation, labeling, and searching systems" and
4. to map out how the site "will accommodate change and growth over time."

One SLIM alum following this career path is Jameson Watkins, Class of '96. After graduating from Emporia State University with a B.S. in English and a minor in computer information systems, Watkins wanted a graduate degree that would combine both disciplines and discovered library studies. He worked in the SLIM Information Technology Lab while working on his MLS and then signed a one-year contract with the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) two weeks before graduating to be the lead developer for the Blue Skyways web site, http://skyways.lib.ks.us/, for the Kansas State Library. Now a full-time employee for KUMC, Watkins divides his time between Blue Skyways maintenance and web development projects at KUMC.



Jameson Watkins

He is a team member working on a site wide redesign of the KUMC web site, a project that involves an estimated 50,000-80,000 documents. "The growth of the web site has been exponential, and it far-outpaced the current navigation systems," says Watkins. "Suppose someone is looking for the physical address of the Kansas Cancer Institute. After looking in three different categories, a frustrated user will typically go to the search engine. If you search on the word 'cancer,' you'll receive almost 4,000 hits, everything from lab schedules of graduate students to course syllabi, which are absolutely useless. If by chance the user gets to where he wanted, there are no enforced guidelines that dictate how that particular site must structure its content. Once on the KCI site, the user may have to click on a link called 'About' to get the address, or it may be at the bottom of the page, or it may be behind a link called 'Important Information.' Each site makes the user learn a new navigation system, which is a major problem with Internet sites in general.

"So I've adapted a card catalog type of resource to solve our problems. Each department or unit, whether they have an existing web site or not, has an entry that contains basic information - web site address, phone numbers, contact information, addresses, descriptions, synonyms, keywords, etc. It's all built using defined fields with strict authority control, something we can't do with the actual web sites. A user can now go to our search engine and have the default option to search this 'sub-site record' database instead of a full-text search. If he now types in that same search, 'cancer', he'll receive maybe two or three hits - the Kansas Cancer Institute, the Dept of Oncology, and cancer support group information. The results are presented in a consistent and easy to read format."

continued on page 4, Watkins

Student News

SLIM-New Mexico II students, **Carroll Botts and Rebecca Bauerschmidt,** had an article on on E-mail reference services in academic libraries published in the weekly newsletter of the New Mexico State Library. The URL is http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/hiker/hh1321.html.

Robin Henshaw, SLIM Kansas student, received the LIBRI Best Student Paper Award for 1999. Entitled, "The First Monday Metadata Project," the article appeared in the September 1999 issue of Libri.

The Kansas Library Association recently awarded scholarships to the following SLIM students: **Rebecca Stith, Camille Banker, and Charlessa Gates.** Congratulations to these students and thanks to KLA!

Carol Levers was one of fifty recepients of the Spectrum Scholarship from the American Library Association. The $5,000 awards are given to encourage and assist minorities in pursuing careers in library science.

Rebecca Miller will present a paper at the annual AUDEM conference in Budapest, Hungary Nov 2-11, 1999. The title of the paper is "Cross Cultural Collaboration via the Internet: The Emporia-Warsaw Project."

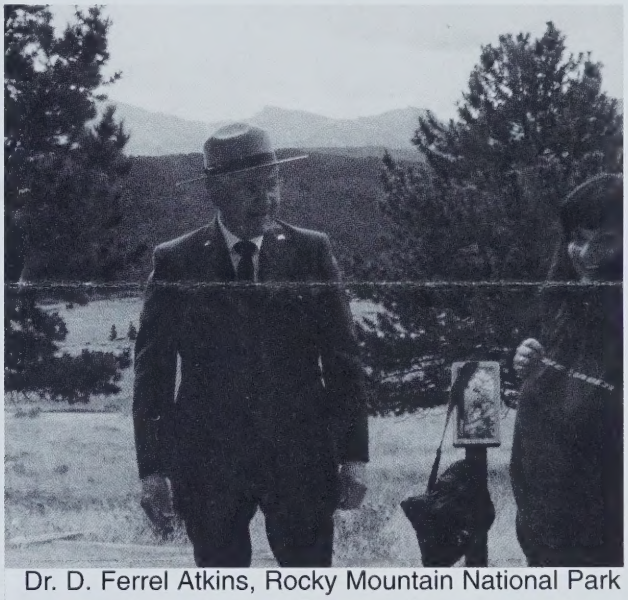
SLIM Info-Rangers Experience Archiving at Rocky Mountain National Park

by Nancy Thomas

Twelve SLIM students from five states and four campuses converged on Estes Park Colorado this past September for a hands-on experience in archiving. Instructors for the weeklong adventure were Nancy P. Thomas and Ceclia L Salvatore. Brian Johnson, student and archivist for the city of Portland, Oregon, shared teaching responsibilities with course instructors, Shirley Harding, NPS volunteer museum curator, and Diana Wiggam, museum technician.

Participants included MLS students Wendy Roberts and Peggy Hessing of New Mexico, Jeanie McCallister of South Dakota, Sue McGuiness, Eileen Lohne, Deborah Dauenheimer, David Rhoades, Denise Brooks of Colorado, Dawn Humphrey and Marie Mack of Kansas. Rick Bogdan, a Ph.D. student from Kansas also took part, and is assisting course instructors with a study of this distance education and online and onsite collaboration.

The primary activity on-site was the launching of an archival survey, but students also gained experience in the archival accessioning and description of collections that the Park will soon be able to make available to researchers using an ANCS+ database. Students prepared for the Practicum in the Park through assigned readings and a number of course-related tasks. For example, some students created a survey to identify information and documents related to RMNP in libraries, historical societies and the like in Colorado. Others investigated: possibilities for grants to assist the Park in future archiving and preservation activities; the ANCS+ database; and Park and local history.



Dr. D. Ferrel Atkins, Rocky Mountain National Park naturalist, visits with Deborah Dauenheimer.

In addition to their archival activities, students also toured the Stanley Hotel and Museum, visited the historic Enos Mills homestead cabin and met Mills' daughter, Enda Mills Kiley, and were treated to an afternoon program on early settlement and settlers in Estes Park and a tour of the historic William Allen White cabin in Moraine Park. White, renowned editor of the Emporia Gazette early in this century and a confidant and friend of presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to FDR, summered in Estes for many years. Dr. D. Ferrel Atkins, Park naturalist and White authority conducted the session, donning especially for the occasion, a uniform ranger's wore at the time of the Park's founding in 1915.

Members of the SLIM community are invited to learn more about the course through a website currently under construction. Be sure to watch the SLIM website for a link at http://slim.emporia.edu. The finished site will include photographs and information on this year's course and plans for future high country adventures in 2000. Anyone interested in becoming a High Country Info-Ranger next fall should contact the course instructors (thomasna@cadvantage.com; salvatorecl@hotmail.com).

Faculty News

Nancy Thomas had her book, ***Information Literacy and Information Skills Instruction: Applying Research to Practice in the School Library Media Center,*** published by Libraries Unlimited in June

James Nyce accepted a visiting associate professorship at Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis School of Library and Informaiton Science for 1999-200 academic school year. Dr. Nyce will teach a course in medical informatics, conduct research, and help build the medical informatics program in collaboration with the IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Cecilia Salvatore had a paper selected for presentation at the International Cultural Heritage Informatics Meeting in Washington, DC, in September. The title of her paper is ***On Cultural Informatics and the Sustainability of Pacific Island Nations.***

John Agada had a report of his inner-city research, "Inner-City Gatekeepers: An Exploratory Survey of Their Information Use Environment," published in the January 1999 issue of JASIS, pp. 74-85.

Herbert Achleitner is on sabbatical as a guest lecturer at the University of Sofia, Bulgaria, Department of Library and Information Sciences. He will present at the Bulgarian Library Association conference and work on a join research project analyzing the status of Bulgaria's National Information Infrastructure.

ESU awards Doctor of Philosophy in Library & Information Management

At the May 15, 1999 Emporia State University graduation, John Schwenn, Vice President, presented diplomas to students earning graduate degrees. Among those graduates were two doctoral candidates from the School of Library and Information Management: Mirah Dow of Eureka, KS, and Kate Marek of Blair, NE.

The doctoral program at SLIM is designed to enable students to teach and conduct research that will contribute to society's understanding of the creation, diffusion, and utilization of information. Linkages between focal studies in information transfer and other disciplines are evident in the disseration research of each graduate.

Dow investigated community-based programs for individuals with autism from a systems perspective. Dow received a $5,000 research scholarship from the Donald D. Hammell Foundation, Austin, TX. Her study titled Toward a Technology of Behavioral Support for Individuals with Autism: An Ideal Information System is located athttp://slim2.emporia.edu/students/dow/.

Mirah Dow, Bob Grover, and Kate Marek

Marek studied the experiences of students in graduate education who read works of fiction in a portion of assigned reading. Marek's disseration titled The Experiences of Reading Fiction for Graduate Professional Education: A Phonomenological Study is located at http://slim2.emporia.edu/students/merek/. Her dissertation was one of three selected nationallly to be presented at the Student Research Forum of ALA's Library Research Round Table at ALA 1999.

SLIM currently has 23 students in various stages of the Ph.D. program. SLIM is the first school at Emporia State University to have a Ph.D. program, which began in 1993.

Graduation Ceremonies Held in Utah and Nebraska

Twenty-six students of SLIM-Utah I and thirty students of SLIM-Nebraska II graduated with MLS degrees this summer. ESU President, Dr. Kay Schallenkamp attended the May 22nd ceremony held in Salt Lake City. ESU Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Schwenn and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Tim Downs attended the August 8th ceremony held at Mahoney State Park outside of Lincoln. Since 1988, five hundred and forty-seven students have earned their MLS degree through the SLIM Distance Education Program.

Members of the SLIM-Nebraska II graduating class, August 8, 1999. Guests include Becky Pasco, left front, commencement speaker and ESU VP for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Schwenn, left back.

Alumni News

Chuck Gibson, 1995, was a panel discussion member at ALA in New Orleans.. The program, ***"Measuring and Reporting Electronic Services in Public Libraries: The Ohio Experience,*** was sponsored by PLA Research and Statistics Committee.

Susan Moon married Greg Kempel this past February and is the library media specialist at Lewis and Clark Elementary School of Fargo, North Dakota.

Ru Story-Hoffman was very busy at ALA making poster presentations for LIRT: ***Take This Exit*** and for Highsmith Press about her two books ***Newbery on the Net*** and ***The Quest for Caldecott.***.

Scottie Patterson was selected to attend the Snowbird Library Leadership Institute this past summer.

Madeline Finch recently began doing competitive intelligence work for Callahan Creek, a marketing/ad agency in Lawrence, Kansas.

Allen Hartzell, 98, was recently hired as an Adult Services Associate at Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library.

Elizabeth Stroup is the Web Librarian for the Digital Library of the Naval Research Library in Washington, DC.

Beverly Adler, 1993, was recently re-elected as President of the Mohave Library Alliance, a consortium of librarians throughout Mohave County and its neighbors in California and Nevada.

Class of 1970 Planning Millennium Reunion at ALA 2000

The SLIM Class of 1970 is planning a Millennium Reunion to be held in conjunction with the American Library Association Annual Conference 2000 in Chicago. A committee of 1970 graduates from around the country is meeting in cyberspace to organize the event. The committee will also meet during ALA Midwinter.

Marilyn Hinshaw, President of the Mountain PLains Library Association, approached Dean Robert Grover with the idea, "1970 was a very good year. When we left the campus to test ourselves in the world of real libraries, we could not tell how our lives and our careers would turn out. Many of us have done very well and we know that it all began here in the classrooms of ESU." The reunion will be open to all SLIM Alumni and the reunion committee challenges graduates of other classes to attend as subgroups or as individuals. Hinshaw hopes everyone will join in the fun, "Be prepared for 2000 to be a SLIM year full of fun and frolic, friends and memories, as we stand on the cusp of a great future."

More details will appear in the spring newsletter. In the meantime, see how many of these 1970 SLIM graduates you can identify. A second photo will be in the next newsletter.

PINE LIBRARY CLUB—Top row: Lucile Stratton, Mary Ann Hubbel, Linda Knight, Maureen Pastine, Martha Grimes. Third row: Lorine Warrick, Glee Eggers, Nelda Elder, Delores Sundbye, Maureen Johnson, Ada Hubbard. Second row: Ray Firestone, Marilyn Hinshaw, Sara Lou Goff, Virginia Terry, Betty Zink, Diane Finley, Sarita Hannah, Lois Hager, Janice Whaley. First row: John Driscoll, Guy Coffee, Mel Cunningham, Val Sargent, Prudence Bell, Mary Coatney, Jane Bell, Gaye Hinkle, Glenda McNew.

Watkins, continued from page 2

Watkins is also involved in creating the prototype of the Kansas Digital Library. "We're in the middle of answering questions like 'What kinds of things will people be searching for? How should they be able to browse? What place do archival finding aids have in a digital collection?"

"The core concept behind much of SLIM, i.e., building relationships with and understanding your client's information needs, are of incredible importance to my job. The combination of my English degree, computer skills, and library science training has provided a great backdrop for me to continue building my Information Architecture skills."

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